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Psychology the Ally of Religion.

Rev. John Kelman, in his new book on *The Faith of Robert Louis Stevenson*, gives an exceedingly interesting presentation of the great novelist's religious conceptions, which he describes as true Christian faith. In the course of his discussion he has the following valuable paragraph: The interpretation of religious experiences in terms of the general laws of psychology has given alarm needlessly, though not unnaturally, to some believers. These have fallen into the same fallacy as that to which Darwin's critics have often succumbed: they have forgotten that to explain the process of a phenomenon is not to explain its ultimate causes, or to deny to it the operation of those hidden spiritual forces with which Christianity has familiarized us. Spiritual experience would be no less divine though we were able to trace it point by point along a sequence of psychological processes to the point at which the soul of man receives from God his authentic revelation. Divineness does not consist in unintelligibility, nor is it the sole attribute of God that he hides himself from sight. So far from being in any way a menace to religion, psychology may be and has been among the most valuable of its allies. The worst feature about religion, as it has often been understood, is its aloofness from the ordinary facts of life, and its severance of the sacred from the secular. The inevitable result for the majority of men must be a deadening of the religious interest, and a more or less gloomy sense of remoteness in sacred things. The temptation to pessimism, or at least discouragement, comes to all men from the disheartening experience of their daily conflicts and defeats. But those whose religion is held apart have no defense against it, the God whom their theory has isolated from life being "far off from helping them." To such men the new spirit offers a God who is near at hand, a Word which is nigh them, in their mouth and in their heart. The result is immediate in the spring of quickened vital interest and enthusiasm, in an optimistic view of life and a gospel of health and gladness.

The Principles of True Freedom.

A series of lectures given before the students of King's College, London, in 1902, is now published under the title, *The Religious Sense in its Scientific Aspect*. The lectures are by Greville Macdonald, M.D. The three lectures deal respectively with "The Religion of Service," "The Religion of Renunciation," and "The Religion of Freedom."